

# By the King.

50. f. 10  
24

## A Proclamation for preuention of future abuses in Purveyance.



Vch is the zeale and inward affection which wee haue found in all sorts of our loving and loyall Subjects of this our Kingdome, as we are content to acknowledge, that (besides the Christian care which all Kings are bound by the Law of God and nature to take ouer all their People) our owne sence and apprehension of their complaints, doeth dayly increase with the feeling we haue of their honest merits. In which respect, having taken some more particular paines in the examination of divers circumstances, then is common to many Princes; wee did not onely commaund all our Officers to be very diligent to try out and punish the offences of Purveyors with all severitie, but to fall into serious consideracion, how all occasion may be taken away hereafter, whereby those inferiour Ministers, which are vsed therein, may make themselves (vnder colour of our Prerogative Royall) the instruments of corruption and rapine: A matter most odious to our owne nature, who haue alwayes moe desire to give then to receive from any our Subjects, except it be where necessarie inforceth vs thereunto, even for the support and preseruation of that state and dignitie wherein Almighty God hath placed vs. For better assurance whereof, we haue thought it very conuenient at this time, to take some occasion in this maner to expresse the fruits of our care and consideration concerning this particular point of Purveyances.

First, when wee were informed that some inferiour ministers had presumed to goe so farre beyond their Commission, as they haue aduentured not onely to take Timber trees growing (which being parcel of our Subjects inheritance were never intended by vs to be taken) without the good will and full contentment of the Owners, but haue accustomed also to take vpp farre greater quantites of provissons for our House and Stable, then euer came or were needfull for our vse (as most espe- cially in Wood, Coale, Hay, and Carriage vpon our Progresse tourneyes or remoues: ) Although we haue no cause to doubt, but that our Officers of our Greenecloth haue bene and will be euer most ready to search out and punish all such offences vpon iust complaints; yet wee did not leaue the pur- suit & triall thereof to them onely, but did particularly direct our Attorney generall to informe against them on our behalfe in our Court of Starre-chamber, Where some of them vpon their Confession, haue already received (by censure of that Court) condigne punishment by Fine, Imprisonment, & illorie and loosing of their ears, And some others seeking to saue themselves by denying that wherewith they were charged do stil rewaine vnder examination to receive the like punishment, vpon due prooife thereof to be made against them. By which example wee perswade our selues, that all honest men will rest so well assured of our good intention to reforme abuses (euen to their greatest satisfaction when there is iust occasion) as they will carefully and willingly continue their obedience and confor- mitie to those courses for furnishing such provissons as are necessary for vs which were taken by the consent of most of the principall Gentlemen, and good Patriots in severall Countiees, And whereof above sixteene Shires haue had continuance by the space of forty yeeres, Especially considering how many good, and wise Princes of this Realme, that haue gone before vs, where such agreements haue not bene made, haue held themselves to their Right of Purveyance, which is one of the most ancient flowers of the Crowne in our Progenitors, and must descend to our Posterite, whom God we hope both hath, and will so farre enable with his blessings, and graces, as they shall prooue themselves no lesse able, nor worthy then any others, to enjoy and preserue the right, of a iust and lawful Monarchie. Wherein, because all wise men know sufficiently, that wheresoeuer there must bee a trust in Vulgar persons, it is not possible to keepe their actions from errors, & abuses: we haue thought it fit for a fur- ther demonstration of our great care to prevent the same, to publish that which followeth, as wel to ter- rifie the euil, as to comfort the well affected, whose iust griefe shall euer lye as neere vs, as our owne.

BE it therefore knownen hereby, that wee doe gine expresse charge and commandement, that none of our Purveyors, nor other of our Officers or ministers whatsoeuer, that now are, or hereafter shall be, or any of them, or any of their Deputies or Seruants, shall take for vs, or in our name, to or for any vse whatsoeuer, any Timber trees of any our Subjects, growing in any place, or places whatsoeuer, without the expresse consent, and agreement of the owner thereunto had and obtained. Of which particular abuses wee cannot conceale our mislike, both in respect of the iniury done thereby to that laudable policie of the Realme for maintayning of Timber, and also in the particular feeling we haue in our owne affections how grieuous it is for any man to behold the fruits, & honest pleasures of his owne Labors or his Ancestors, defaced & spoiled by the lewd & rauenous malice of base companions.

**S**econdly, because we haue considered that our Subjects may be sometime ouer burthened (against the meaning of our principal Officers) by the unreasonable taking of wood, Coale, Hay, Dates and such like provisions in time of Progresse: we do expressly charge and command all our Officers, Ministers, or any of their Deputies & servants, to forbear to take either wood, Coale, Hay, or Dates in larger proportion, then shalbe found necessary to be expended for the service of our Houle and Stable.

**A**nd further our pleasure is, that none of our Purueiors or takers of carriage, or carttakers (for the time being) nor any of their deputies or servants, nor any other of our Officers or Ministers whatsoeuer, shall vpon our journells, remoues, or progresse, take vp any carts or carriages for any Nobleman, Gentleman, Artizan, or others whatsoeuer, not being our servants in ordinary, & necessarily for that time to attend vs. In which poynt that it may the better appeare, how sparingly it shal be vsed, wee doe expressly command, that there bee no more carriages taken, then shall be particularly compred in a list, which shalbe made for that purpose, and signed with the hands of the principall Officers of our Chamber, Housholde, and Stable: And for the rest, whatsoeuer they bee, either Noblemen, Gentlemen, Artizans, or others that doe follow vs, our expresse pleasure and commandement is, That they from henceforth at all times hereafter provide their carriages (such as they shall like to haue or vse) at their owne proper costes and charges, and by their owne meanes, without vsing in any sort either our name or authoritie, or any of our Purueiors, or any of their deputies or seruants, for, or about the same.

**A**nd wee do withall hereby signifie vnto all and every our Purueiors, their deputies and servants, and all others that may receiue any order from them touching purveyance of carriages, or the making of any the prouisions aforesaide for any our progresse, journells, or remoues, That if in any poynt therein they doe carry themselves contrary to this our expresse prohibition in that behalfe made, that for such their offences they shalbe proceeded against in the severest maner, and receive such exemplary punishment, as by our Lawes may be inflicted vpon them.

**A**nd we do straightly charge our principall Officers of our housshould and Stable, and other Officers of our Greenecloth, vpon due information, and proofe made before them of any our Ministers offending in any the kindes before specified, to deliuere the sayd offenders into the hands of some of the Justices of Peace of the sayde Shire or Countie, where the sayd offence, or offences were committed, to the end they may proceede against them in as seuerest maner, as the Lawe and Justice of our Realme requireth, or alloweth. And if any of the offences aforesaid shall seeme fitter to bee proceeded withall in the Court of Starre chamber, then in the Counties where the offences shal be committed: Then wee doe straightly charge and commaund our Attorney generall for the time being, that if information be giuen vnto him by any our Justices of Peace of the misdemeanor of any person so deliuered, to see the sayd offender prosecuted, and duely punished. Provided alwayes, that our meaning is not hereby to prohibite any our Justices of Peace, vpon just complaints of any of our louing Subjects, to examine, to binde ouer to the Sessions, or (if neede require it) to commit any such offenders in their severall Shires: And then, certifying the cause of such commitments to the Officers of our Greenecloth, to proceed (vpon good proofes) in further punishment of the faults, according to the Lawes of the Realme.

**A**nd wee doe in like maner exprely prohibite and forbid all persons, after the end of this Session of Parliament, to make any purveyance without Commission for every severall Shire, containing the kindes, and quantities (so neere as may bee) whiche they are to purvey within such a Shire. And that to the same Commissions blanke Scedules be annexed, whiche cannot be taken off, wherein they shall truly, in presence of such High Constable, or Constables, pettie Constable, or Constables, Headborough, or Headboroughes, as shall (by precept to him or them directed) be priuie to the deliuerie of any the prouisions in the said Commission specified, enter their takings presently, wherunto the said Constable, &c. shall subscribe their names or signe Mannell. And that the owners or sellers, if they will, may presently likewise subscribe their names or marks to the same. And that when they haue finisched their takings in any such Shire, That then they deliuere a Duplicate of the said Scedule containing their takings, and a true Copy of their proportions appointed, to one of the next Justices of Peace, to the end it may appeare that their takings exceed not their warrants.

**F**urthermore, where we haue bene informed, that diuers complaints haue bene made of some hard course taken by our Officers of our Greenecloth towards diuers of our louing Subjects, at such times as they haue informed against Purueiors and such like Officers vpon abuses: Although wee haue no doubt, that any of our Officers will in any such case so much forget their respect to Justice or Dueuty to vs (the principall Officers being Counsellors of State, and the rest Knights and Gentlemen of good qualitie and discretion) yet to the intent our people may be satisfied that we haue no purpose to suffer any interruption of Justice, vnder pretext of our authority, wee doe hereby declare it, and so is our will and pleasure, that in case any of our louing subjects shalbe imprisoned for so doing, that the Judges of our High Court at Westminster shall award a Habeas corpus for their relief, according to our Lawes.

And for the better satisfaction of our people, of whose loyaltie and inward affections we stand so much assured, as they will not repine at any provision delivered by vertue of our Commission, if it may appear to come to our vse, our wil and pleasure therefore is, that our Justices of Peace in every severall Countie or Country where any provision shalbe taken by vertue of our Commissions, shall at their quarter Sessions take particular reckning of the high & peticie Constables of all Warrants comming unto them from any minister of ours, together with what provisions or carriages they haue delivered unto them by vertue of our Commission, the true and iust Certificate wherof they shall halfe yearely at the least, vnder the hands and Seales of some of them certifie to our Treasurer and Comptrowler, or other our officers of Greenecloth, who presently by the parcels and accounts of our house shall duely examine the receipt from such Purveiors. And if it be found by Certificate of the sayd Justices or otherwise, that they haue taken more then they haue deliuered for our vse or expence, vntesse it shall appere to haue had iust cause of miscarrieng by the way: then we require our officers of Household, vpon paine of our displeasure, without delay to send the party so offending into the Countie where such offence or offences shall be committed, there to receive punishment of life and member, as the good and ancient lawes of our Realme haue formerlyordeined and appointed.

Furthermore, as we did in our returne out of Wiltshire, being our first progresse, vpon the examination of some abuses, draw downe the number of our carriages to such a proportion as two full third parts was diminished of the numbers before time vsed: even so at this time, because we conceiue that the matter of carriages is the greatest grievance, And that it is oftentimes no lesse trouble to our people to come emptie with their carts to Court to take in carriages, then to convey them; we doe therefore hereby also commaund all persons vsed in the seruice of Cartaking for our remoues, to forbear to take either more carriages then are of necessarie to be vsed, or to warne or charge carts in any Citie, Towne, Burrow, or hundred aboue fourteene miles at any time distant from the place where they are to receive their loding, vpon paine of lossing their Office and Service, and such further punishment as is to be inflicted vpon them for their contempts. And we doe likewise require all high Constables, vpon receipt of any Warrants from any our cartakers, their servants or deputies for warning of Carts within their hundredths, that they presume not to warne any but in such part of the hundred as shall be within compasse of the fourteene miles aboue specified, vpon paine of the penalties before expressed: vntesse it shall appere by the Judgement and order of the Justices of that County, or sixe of them at the least, that it shall be more for the ease of the countrey to enlarge the extent of the number of miles aforesayd.

Furthermore, wee charge and commaund the Purveiors of our Woodyard and Scullarie, vpon taking of any proportion of wood or Coale for our provision, not to medle or assume authority vnto themselves for warning any Carts for Carriage of the same, but by the direction of wo at the least of our Justices of Peace next adioyning of that County, Where such wood, or Coales shall be taken, to the end the same may be performed with the greatest ease to our louing Subiects, vpon paine of lossing their office, and such further punishment, as their contempt shall require: Not doubting, but those Justices, which are made priuy to their Commission, will vse such care, and expedition at all times, for the furtherance of our service, and for the good and quiet of their countrey, as we shall not bee forced by their Remisnes, to returne the wooned authoritie into the hands of the Purveiors.

And lastly, as a further demonstration of our inward affection to our people, notwithstanding our ancient Right and Prerogative of Purviance so long continued, we haue caused some of our priny Councell, (together with our chiese Officers of the Greenecloth) to fall into present consideration how to provide (as soone as may be) some such conuenient number of Carts, Wholly to bee maintained vpon our owne charge, as may serue vs whensoeuer we shall make any sudden remoue, or private iourneys for our exercise, and recreation, without being forced to vse any Commission, or to put the Countries to any charge for furnishing vs vpon any of those vncertaine occasions.

Given vnder our Signe manuell at our palace of Westminster the 23. day of April, in the fourth yeere of our Reigne of Great Britaine, France and Ireland.

God sauе the King.

¶ Imprinted at London by Robert Barker,  
Printer to the Kings most excellent  
Maestie. 1606.